

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image communication device comprising:
image receiving means for receiving an image;
image mute control means for automatically judging whether or not the image received by the image receiving means is output; and
image outputting means for outputting the image received by the image receiving means through a wire communication line or a radio communication line in cases where the image mute control means judges to output the image, wherein the image mute control means controls the image outputting means not to output the image received by the image receiving means when a power is initially supplied to the image communication device, and the image mute control means controls the image outputting means according to a mute-off instruction to output the image received by the image receiving means.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

time managing means for managing a passing time, wherein the image mute control means judges according to the passing time managed by the time managing means whether or not the image received by the image receiving means is output.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an electronic phone book for setting a mute-off state for each of a plurality of ends of a communication line, wherein the image mute control means judges that the image received by the image receiving means is output to one end of a communication line in cases where the mute-off state is set for the one end by the electronic phone book, and the image mute control means judges that the image received by the image receiving means is not output to the one end of a communication line in cases where no mute-off state is set for the one end by the electronic phone book.

Claim 5 (Original): An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

error monitoring means for monitoring a degree of error occurring in the communication line, wherein the image mute control means judges according to the degree of error monitored by the error monitoring means whether or not the image received by the image receiving means is output.

Claim 6 (Original): An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

image storing means for storing an image in advance, wherein the image stored by the image storing means is output by the image outputting means in cases where the image mute control means judges to output the image stored by the image storing means in place of the image received by the image receiving means.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image communication method for an image communication device, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

controlling an image output mechanism to not output a received image when a power is initially supplied to the image communication device, the image output mechanism outputting a received image according to a mute off instruction;

receiving an image;
automatically judging whether or not the received image is output; and
outputting the received image through a wire communication line or a radio communication line in cases where it is judged to output the received image.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image communication device comprising:
an image receiving mechanism configured to receive an image;
an image mute control mechanism configured to automatically judge whether or not the image received by the image receiving mechanism is output; and
an image outputting mechanism configured to output the image received by the image receiving mechanism through a wire communication line or a radio communication line in cases where the image mute control mechanism judges to output the image, wherein the image mute control mechanism is configured to control the image outputting mechanism not to output the image received by the image receiving mechanism when a power is initially supplied to the image communication device, and the image mute control mechanism is configured to control the image outputting mechanism according to a mute-off instruction to output the image received by the image receiving mechanism.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An image communication device according to claim 8, further comprising:

a time managing mechanism configured to manage a passing time, wherein the image mute control mechanism judges according to the passing time managed by the time managing mechanism whether or not the image received by the image receiving mechanism is output.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An image communication device according to claim 8, further comprising:

an electronic phone book for setting a mute-off state for each of a plurality of ends of a communication line, wherein the image mute control mechanism is configured to judge that the image received by the image receiving mechanism is output to one end of a communication line in cases where the mute-off state is set for the one end by the electronic phone book, and the image mute control mechanism is configured to judge that the image received by the image receiving mechanism is not output to the one end of a communication line in cases where no mute-off state is set for the one end by the electronic phone book.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): An image communication device according to claim 8, further comprising:

an error monitoring mechanism configured to monitor a degree of error occurring in the communication line, wherein the image mute control mechanism configured to judge according to the degree of error monitored by the error monitoring mechanism whether or not the image received by the image receiving mechanism is output.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An image communication device according to claim 8, further comprising:

an image storing mechanism configured to store an image in advance, wherein the image stored by the image storing mechanism is output by the image outputting mechanism

in cases where the image mute control mechanism judges to output the image stored by the image storing mechanism in place of the image received by the image receiving mechanism.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image communication device comprising:
an image receiving mechanism configured to receive an image;
an image mute control mechanism configured to automatically judge whether or not the image received by the image receiving mechanism is output, wherein the image mute control mechanism is configured to control the image outputting mechanism not to output the image received by the image receiving mechanism when a power is initially supplied to the image communication device, and the image mute control mechanism is configured to control the image outputting mechanism according to a mute-off instruction to output the image received by the image receiving mechanism;

an image outputting mechanism configured to output the image received by the image receiving mechanism through a wire communication line or a radio communication line in cases where the image mute control mechanism judges to output the image; and

a data sending mechanism to send a condition of the image mute control mechanism through the wire communication line or the radio communication line.